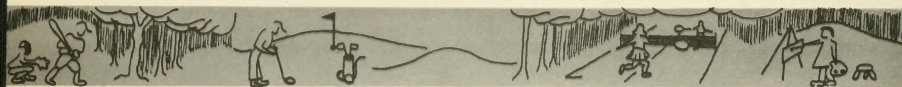


C4
11:G7/2

North Carolina State Library
Raleigh

NC
Doc

dcp



RECREATION STUDY FOR

GRAHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

RESEARCH TEAM

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

STAFF MEMBERS

STAFF MEMBERS

STAFF MEMBERS

THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
DR. THOMAS H. BARNES
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.

THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.

THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.
THOMAS H. BARNES, JR.

RESEARCH TEAM

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS
STAFF MEMBERS


RECREATION STUDY
FOR
GRAHAM

NORTH CAROLINA

STAFF MEMBERS

1961

The preparation of this report was
financed in part through the
generous support of the
State of North Carolina and the
Federal Government.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PREPARED FOR:

GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

CITY COUNCIL

Myron A. Rhyne, Mayor
M. Carson Hardie
Durward T. Stokes
Thomas R. Harden, Jr.
Houston P. Sharpe
J.B.C. Wooten

CITY MANAGER

Bruce Turney

RECREATION COMMISSION

Chick Welsh, Chairman
Thomas R. Harden, Jr.
Wilbur Nash
Cleo Owens
Al Cheek
Ike Frost
J. A. Albright
Al Bryan
Larry McAllister
Hal T. Leach

PREPARED BY:

Division of Community Planning
Department of Conservation and Development
State of North Carolina

PLANNING STAFF

Robert D. Barbour, Administrator
John Voorhees, Asst. Administrator
Jerry M. Turner, Project Planner I
Frances S. Poole, Typist

The preparation of this report was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction	1
I Existing Recreation Facilities	2
II Recreation Standards	4
III Determining Graham's Future Recreation Needs	7
IV Need for Recreation Facilities by Planning Districts	10
V Community Recreation Facilities	16
VI General Considerations	18

TABLE

1 Age Breakdown of the Total Graham Planning Area Population	7
--	---

ILLUSTRATIONS

	<u>FOLLOWS PAGE</u>
Master Plan of Recreation Areas	7
Planning Districts Map	9
Neighborhood Playground Plan	11
Community Recreation Area Plan	16
Perspective of Play Equipment	19
Perspective of Play Equipment	19

INTRODUCTION

The typical working American today has 3,000 waking hours off the job each year: the equivalent of fourteen two-week vacations with pay. During their time off the workers spend thirty billion dollars--on entertainment, sports, clothing, food, furniture, and tools, instruments, equipment and other manufactured items that are used to enrich leisure-time activity.

By 1975, according to the experts, the average work week within the United States will be 34 hours. Today's average paid vacation of a week and a half will probably become, in the next twenty years, two and a half weeks, with a large proportion of workers enjoying three weeks or a month. With this increase in leisure time, recreation will play an even more important role in the life of the average worker than it does today. City, state and national recreation facilities will have to be expanded to take care of increased activity.

It is with these projections in mind that this recreation study has been made to supply the Town of Graham, North Carolina, with a long-range plan for recreation. During the past few years the town has become increasingly concerned about the need for recreation facilities and the difficulty of obtaining additional land for these facilities. As population increases and additional land is needed for dwelling, industry, churches and schools, available land for recreation purposes become critically scarce. As in other comparable situations, too frequently land has been subdivided, houses built, and families moved in before there was an awareness that houses need people and people need areas for recreation. As a result, land for recreation facilities is either difficult to find or nonexistent.

Modern man is everywhere finding himself deprived of his privacy, his individuality; but he is the raw material of growing towns and cities, and they must, if they are to thrive, provide him with the means of escape. Freedom to move has been and continues to be the measure of his individual freedom. Any planning for growth among towns and cities must recognize this fact.

The Town of Graham recognizes the need for additional recreation facilities as well as the hard work required to come by and develop those facilities. It is also aware that with community interest and special effort a comprehensive system can be established and developed to fulfill its needs.

The study has been developed in conjunction with the "Development Plan for Graham" and should be considered an integral part of that plan. The "Development Plan" predicts the direction of possible urban development; this study designates land areas best suited for recreational activities and facilities of varied nature. Selection of recreation sites has been made with relationship to the major street sketch plan, designated planning districts, and existing and future land-use plans. Data also reflected in this study includes probable changes in total population, population in each planning district, and age distribution of population.

CHAPTER I

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

At present, virtually all recreation facilities and activities are limited to those offered by the public schools. This means that community sponsored recreation is limited to public school athletics, parties, plays, and the like. Consequently, when the schools are closed for the summer, organized recreation activities cease; citizens of Graham must then turn to rather limited public and private recreation facilities.

School Recreation

The school system in Graham consists of two elementary school and one high school for Whites and one elementary and high school for Negroes. These schools have the usual recreation facilities and provide, as noted above, almost the only facilities available. A new elementary for Whites was completed in 1960 and is presently in use. A new high school for Negroes is to be built in the near future.

Graham Civic Center

Various civic clubs sponsor a Graham Civic Center, which is located adjacent to the high school property and has facilities for meetings, banquets, and dancing. The Center provides a tennis court and outdoor picnic areas.

Public Recreation

The only public recreation area provided by the Town of Graham is the town lake, which is located approximately two miles from the town limits. The lake covers an area of roughly twenty acres; the town maintains forty acres adjoining the lake. A row boat rental service is provided by the town. Fishing and boating are the only activities available at the lake.

Church Recreation

Many of the churches in Graham provide supplementary recreation by sponsoring Boy Scout, Cub Scout, Girl Scout, and Brownie troops. Meetings are held in rooms in the churches or in special huts on church property.

Boys' Club

The Red Shield Boys' Club, for underprivileged boys, has facilities on the lake to the southwest of the town. Facilities include a clubhouse, picnic areas, camping ground, and open play areas. During the summer, when the program is active, activities are supervised by a paid director.

Commercial Recreation

Commercial recreation opportunities in Graham are limited to one theater, one drive-in theater, one skating rink, and two pool halls.

Industrial Recreation

Some industrial and business firms in the area sponsor softball, basketball, and bowling leagues. These programs are hampered by the fact that most of the facilities available are located in Burlington, and by the obvious fact that Burlington citizens must use the same facilities.

Opportunities for Recreation in Burlington

Many of the people in Graham use Burlington's recreation facilities because the two towns are located relatively close to each other. Burlington maintains a city park, which provides facilities for swimming, picnicking, and various amusements; the park, as well as many of the neighborhood parks closer to Graham, is used extensively by Graham citizens. They also avail themselves of commercial recreation facilities in Burlington, such as the theaters, the golf courses, and the bowling lanes.

Evaluation of Recreation Facilities in Graham

Except for recreation activities and facilities sponsored by the public schools, Graham has neither an organized recreation program nor a public recreation area. Serious as the situation is at present, it will become acute in the near future. By 1980 Graham's population will have grown to a point that the town must have a community recreation area and all its facilities. With a corresponding growth in population, Burlington will no longer be able to supply essential supplementary recreation facilities. The present need, then, is for the Town of Graham to plan, purchase, and develop neighborhood parks and playgrounds which will provide for the immediate recreation needs of all residents. This planning should include one centrally located community recreation area in addition to the neighborhood areas.

CHAPTER II

RECREATION STANDARDS

Nationally recognized recreation standards have been used as the basis for this report. These standards indicate recreation facilities needed by a model community and have been related to the needs of small cities with average population density of approximately 3 to 5 families per acre. These recreational standards are as follows:

Neighborhood Playground

The primary purpose of a neighborhood playground is to provide active recreation facilities for children 5 to 15 years old. A secondary purpose is to provide limited recreation for other members of the family, including informal recreation for young people and adults and a play area for preschool children.

The size of the neighborhood playground will vary according to the population it serves and the availability of land. Minimum size, however, should be four acres, or 1.25 acres for every 100 persons within the neighborhood it serves. It should be located as close as possible to the center of a half-mile residential service area. It should also be readily accessible by a major street and by pedestrian ways. Facilities within such a playground should include most of the following:

A play area for preschool children in the age group 1-5.

An apparatus area for children in the age group 5-10.

Open space for informal play.

Paved multi-use courts for basketball, shuffleboard, etc.

Playing fields for softball, football, etc.

A shelter house, a wading pool, and benches.

Landscaped areas with walks for passive recreation.

Neighborhood Park

The main purpose of the neighborhood parks is to provide a small spot of natural beauty for passive recreation in an area of high population density and congestion. It is usually small, its size being directly related to the natural features which it encompasses. Its size generally ranges from 2 to 10 acres. Facilities provided usually consist of benches or chairs and paths. Some informal game areas and picnicking areas may be included. Parking space for a limited number of cars may also be provided.

Community Recreation Area

The community recreation area is a multi-purpose area which provides facilities and activities for all age groups and serves as a recreation center for the entire community. It is the recreational focal point of the community. Its size varies according to the number of people it serves and according to the numbers and kinds of facilities to be provided. These are determined by the needs and desires of a particular community. In general, a community recreation area is needed for approximately every 20,000 people in a city. It should be from 20 to 40 acres in size. It should be centrally located within a service radius of two miles. Sometimes it is advantageous to locate such an area on land adjacent to the high school site.

A community recreation area should include most of the following facilities:

Playing fields for baseball, football, softball, etc.

Courts for tennis, horseshoes, shuffleboard, volleyball, etc.

Lawn areas for croquet, clock golf, etc.

Play apparatus for children and a tot area.

Fireplaces, tables and benches for small picnic groups.

A recreation building for indoor games, sports, and meetings.

An outdoor swimming pool, landscaping, and off-street parking.

Regional Park

The major purpose of a regional park is to provide for the preservation and enjoyment of the natural landscape and to provide space for a variety of specialized recreational activities. Since it is designed to exploit the natural features of the local landscape, such as rivers, lakes, hills, or mountains, its size may encompass 100 acres or more. Its size depends upon the size of the natural landscape feature to be preserved and upon the size of the region it is to serve.

Location of the regional park depends upon the availability of land that is suitable in size, topography, and accessibility. It should be readily accessible by good highways to all residents of the community and the adjacent region. A regional park should include the following types of recreational areas and facilities:

Boating, fishing, and water recreation.

Natural trails for hiking, bird watching, and nature study.

Park shelters, comfort stations, day camp, and landscape features.

Since one of the primary objectives of the park is the preservation of natural beauty, the majority of the land utilized should be left in its natural state.

Total Recreational Space

The total amount of open recreational space that should be provided within a community should be one acre for every 100 residents. This includes all types of recreational areas and facilities mentioned in these standards.

Category	Area (Acres)	Population (1950)
1 - 2	2.1	1,000
3 - 10	10.0	5,000
11 - 20	2.1	1,000
21 - 30	2.1	1,000
31 & over	11.0	5,000
Total all areas	29.3	15,000

This schedule reflects that when the parkland are growing in the future, the future should be more with that growth in mind. The schedule should also take into consideration the fact that major developments should be made in the future, such as water use, housing, farming, hunting, fishing, golfing, and many others, and that projects for the regional park be in commercial facilities. These shall include, but not be limited to, shopping, recreation, recreation facilities, and many other projects in a community-recreational area, and many other projects in a community-recreational area.

CHAPTER III

DETERMINING GRAHAM'S FUTURE RECREATION NEEDS

At present, the population of the Graham planning area is estimated at 9,740. Using the assumptions of the Future Development Plan as a basis for extrapolation, it can be assumed that the population of the area in 1980 will be approximately 17,559 persons. This fact will have to be taken into consideration in any planning the town must do as to size and types of recreational facilities. In terms of the proposed standards, for example, this means that Graham will need 175 acres in recreation use by 1980.

But recreation facilities have to be planned for by other standards than population. Age grouping within the total population will largely determine the types of facilities that are most needed. Assuming that the population of Graham will follow the national pattern of age grouping, the population in 1980 should be distributed according to ages as follows:

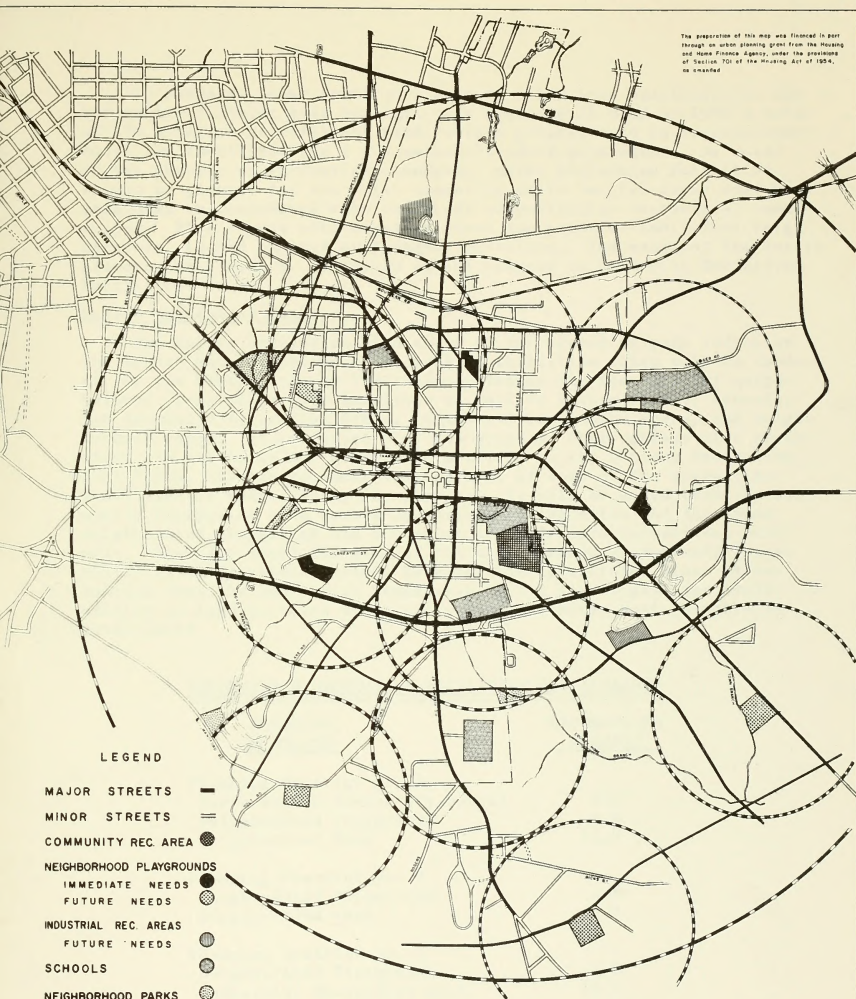
TABLE 1

AGE BREAKDOWN OF THE TOTAL GRAHAM PLANNING AREA POPULATION

<u>AGES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>
0 - 5	9.6	1,685
6 - 14	16.8	2,949
15 - 19	8.1	1,423
20 - 59	50.6	8,886
60 & over	14.9	2,616
Total all ages	100.0	17,559

This breakdown indicates that since the largest age grouping in the 1980 population of Graham will be the adult group, much of the planning for the future should be done with that group in mind. The planners should also take into consideration the fact that major adult recreational activities, such as motoring, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, golfing, and many others, are best provided for in regional parks or in commercial facilities. Other adult recreational needs such as checkers, chess, shuffleboard, horseshoe pitching, and tennis can be accommodated in a community recreation area or even in a neighborhood playground.

The preparation of this map was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



GRAHAM, N.C.

MASTER RECREATION PLAN

PREPARED FOR
GRAHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
BY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

In summary, these facts that must be taken into consideration for the entire planning area indicate that Graham will need by 1980 a total of 175 acres of recreational land, with a primary need in recreational space and facilities for a predominantly adult population. As noted in the chapter on recreation standards, major recreation facilities should be planned for the total community while smaller areas must be developed in accordance with the needs of particular residential communities. This report will consider first the needs of individual neighborhoods, in the chapter on Planning Districts. The needs of the entire planning area will be discussed in the chapter on Community Recreation Facilities.

Master Recreation Plan

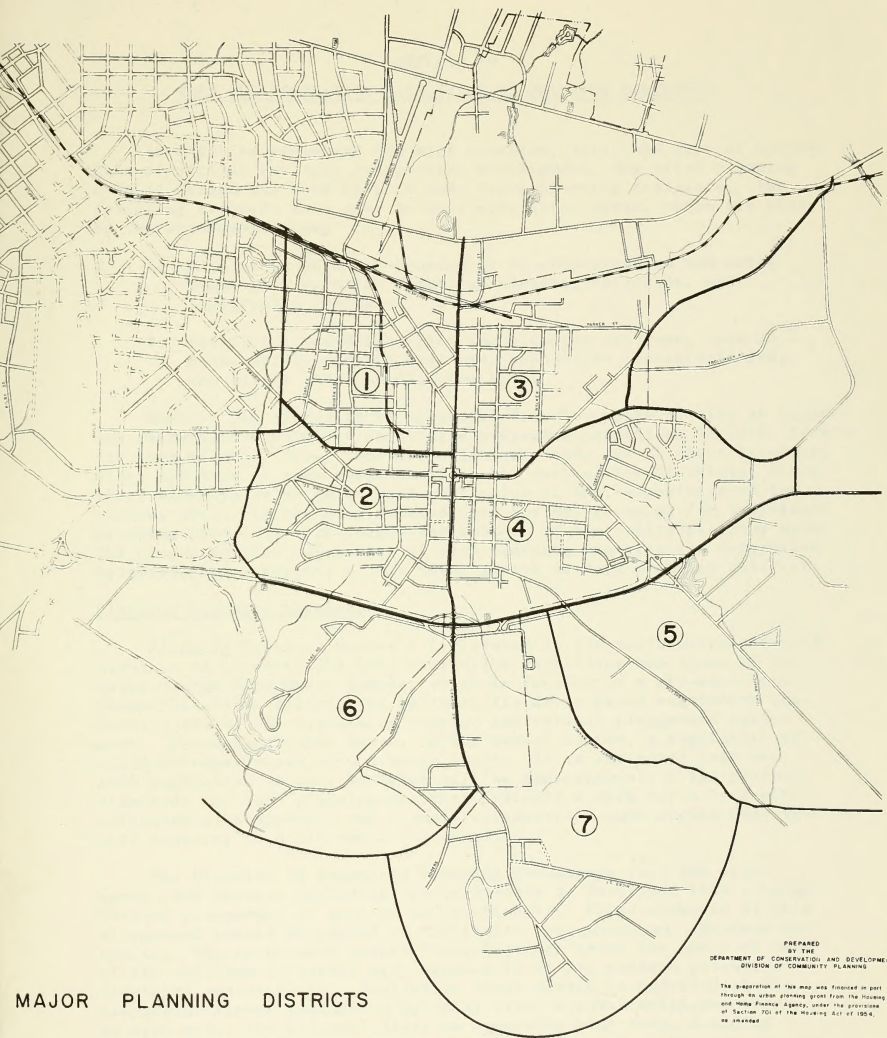
The Master Recreation Plan shown on the preceding page indicates the approximate locations of recreation facilities which will be needed for the Graham area by 1980. It indicates the locations of neighborhood playgrounds (for immediate as well as future needs), schools, the community recreation areas, industrial recreation areas, and neighborhood parks. It indicates also the proposed thoroughfare plan which shows how access is now or will be provided to the various recreation facilities. The approximate service area of each of the recreation facilities is indicated by the circles. It will be noted that the community recreation area serves approximately two miles and that each neighborhood playground has a service area of approximately one-half mile. Specific areas for some of the neighborhood playgrounds (especially in the southern sector) have not been pinpointed since we recommend that the Recreation Commission should investigate the availability of land in these areas and select the sites best suitable for development.

RECOMMENDED RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACREAGES

<u>PLANNING DISTRICTS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED ACREAGE</u>
Planning District No. 1	.
North Graham Elementary School	3.0
Neighborhood Playground	4.9
Neighborhood Park	12.2
Planning District No. 2	
Neighborhood Playground	6.8
Neighborhood Park	4.7
Planning District No. 3	
Neighborhood Playground	4.0
Industrial Recreation Area	12.7
Planning District No. 4	
Community Recreation Area	22.2
Neighborhood Playground	4.4
Elementary School (Negro)	10.0

RECOMMENDED RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACREAGE (con't)

<u>PLANNING DISTRICTS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED ACREAGE</u>
Planning District No. 5	
Industrial Recreation Area	7.9
Neighborhood Playground	9.7
Planning District No. 6	
Neighborhood Playground	6.2
Neighborhood Park	4.0
Planning District No. 7	
South Graham Elementary School	8.0
Neighborhood Playground	10.2
Neighborhood Park	4.3
Planning District No. 8	
High School (Negro)	20.0
<hr/>	
Total	155.2 acres
+Regional Park	100.0 acres
Total Recreation Space	255.2 acres



PREPARED
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The preparation of this map was financed in part
through an urban planning grant from the Housing
and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions
of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954,
as amended

CHAPTER IV

NEED FOR RECREATION FACILITIES BY PLANNING DISTRICTS

In order to recommend the best location, size, and type of recreation facilities for each residential development, the total planning area of Graham has been divided into eight planning districts. The following criteria were used to delineate these areas, which are shown on the accompanying map:

1. Natural or physical boundaries to communication and movement, such as major highways, streets, railroads, and topographic features.
2. Artificial boundaries limiting planning problems, such as major differences in land use, population characteristics, and social strata within the city.

Each of the districts is discussed from the point of view of existing recreation facilities and of the projected population in 1980. From the same point of view, recommendations are made for the best location, size, and type of recreation facility for each of the districts. Since there seems to be no sharp differentiation in the composition of the various areas, it has been assumed that the age grouping for individual planning districts will follow the pattern of the entire planning area. The projected 1980 population of each planning district was determined by allocating a percent of the total growth to each planning district.

Planning District Number 1

Planning District Number 1 is located in the northwest section of Graham. At present, its only recreation facilities are those of the North Graham Elementary School, which is located on a six-acre site. Those facilities include two softball fields, a paved regulation basketball court, two volleyball courts, and various playground equipment. These facilities serve, during school months, a population of 2,254 persons, based upon a house count. It is estimated that the 1980 population of this district will be approximately 2,716 persons. Standards for this planning district indicate a need for a four-acre neighborhood playground and a small neighborhood park around some natural feature, as a minimum requirement.

The Division of Community Planning recommends that the city-owned land between Oakley and North Streets be developed into a neighborhood playground as soon as is practicable. Major emphasis at this playground should be placed on facilities for preschool children and adults. The elementary school facilities can serve the needs of some of the children of school age, especially if its maximum potential is developed and utilized. Facilities which should be provided at the playground should include: a tot play area, a paved multi-use court, an open space for informal play, an apparatus play area, a wading pool, benches, and places for adult recreation such as horseshoes, etc.

The Division further recommends that a neighborhood park be planned and developed along Boyd's Branch between the two planned major streets, Border Street and the Graham-Hopedale Road extension. This park could be developed with benches, tables, and fireplaces for picnicking, as well as with informal spaces for adult recreation, and off-street parking. It is possible that this park could be developed jointly with the Burlington Recreation Department, since it is in the area closest to Burlington.

It is further recommended that the North Graham Elementary School playground be redesigned or further developed to take care of the basic recreation needs of the children in the area. Some of the existing playground equipment is outdated and should be replaced and supplemented with newer types of equipment. A fence should be placed around the playground, particularly at the western end where there is a railroad track. A hedge or a planting of some type around the fence would improve the physical appearance of the area.

Planning District Number 2

Planning District Number 2 is located to the southwest of the center of Graham. Its only recreation facility - which has no direct relationship to recreation in the district - is the American Legion Building. The present population of the district, 1,512, is expected to expand to 2,066 by 1980. Standards for this planning district indicate that the needs are essentially the same as those for Planning District Number 1: a four-acre neighborhood playground and a small neighborhood park using as its focus some natural feature.

Since there is an immediate need for a neighborhood playground in this area, the Division of Community Planning recommends that such a facility be developed as soon as possible, utilizing a part of the land lying between Highway 70 and Gilbreath Street. (This is the only open land in the area that could be utilized for a playground. Other open areas are either too small for the purpose or would be too expensive to develop. One area is eliminated because it has a creek in the center.) Major emphasis at this playground should be placed on facilities for children of preschool age and school age, with an area for adult activities. Facilities at this playground should include: a paved multi-use court, an apparatus play area, a tot play area, a playing field for football, softball, and baseball, an area for quiet games, a wading pool, benches, walks, and an area for adult recreation such as: horseshoes and shuffleboard. Natural landscape features should be fully exploited, with whatever additional landscaping is necessary.

It is further recommended that a neighborhood park be planned along the sides of the branch running beside Banks Street between Franklin and Ward Streets. This park could be developed as a simple landscaped area, with the only initial expense involving cleaning up the creek banks and the over-all area. After the area is cleaned up, grass could be planted in open areas, and there should be provided a few off-street parking places as well as picnic tables, benches, fireplaces, walks, and a park shelter.

TRAVORA STREET

GRAHAM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND



SCALE: 1"=20'-0"

LEGEND

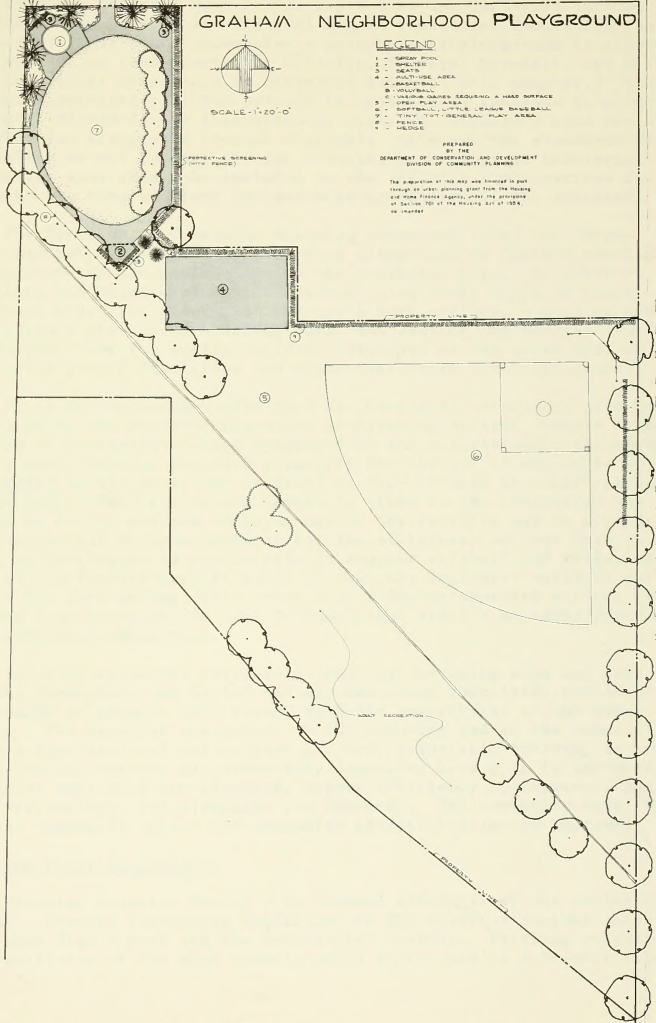
- 1 - SANDY POOL
- 2 - WHEELS
- 3 - PLATS
- 4 - MULTI-USE AREA
- 5 - HORSE BALL
- 6 - VOLLEYBALL
- 7 - LARGE BASES SECURED A HARD SURFACE
- 8 - OPEN PLAY AREA
- 9 - SOFTBALL, LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
- 10 - TINY TOT - GENERAL PLAY AREA
- 11 - FENCE
- 12 - WEDGE

PREPARED
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The preparation of this map was financed in part
through an order granting deed from the Housing
and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions
of Section 702 of the Housing Act of 1934
as amended

MARSHALL STREET

WELLSVILLE STREET



Planning District Number 3

Planning District Number 3 is located in the northeast section of Graham. At present the district has no recreation facilities, but as this study is being undertaken a neighborhood playground is under development, on land bounded by Melville, Travera, Marshall, and Hill Streets. (This playground is discussed later in this chapter.) The present population of 1,568 persons is expected to increase to 2,123 by 1980. Standards for this planning district indicate a need for a neighborhood playground (4-acre minimum). Although the standards for recreation do not include it, the Division feels that an industrial recreation area should be included in the district since various industries are located along the northern boundaries of the district.

The Division of Community Planning recommends that the aforementioned Melville Street neighborhood playground be further developed as indicated on the sketch plan on the preceding page. As shown on the plan, the playground should include: a softball field, a paved multi-use court for games that require a hard surface, a shelter house, a children's play area, a wading pool, and seating for adults. Further recreation areas for adults could be developed on the south side of the creek with picnic facilities and other facilities for adult games.

It is further recommended that an industrial recreation area be developed on the northern extremity of Planning District Number 3, consisting of a playground-park sponsored by the industries in the area. Such a park would be intended primarily for the use of employees of industries in the area, but it could perhaps be used by other residents of the area. The site chosen should be close to the industries involved to insure maximum employee use of the facility and to provide further recreation opportunities for the employees, who now have to drive to Burlington to participate in company softball and volleyball leagues. A further benefit would be that the employees would be able to use the park during their lunch hour. The recommended minimum size is from 5 to 10 acres, to include facilities similar to those found in a neighborhood playground.

Industry sponsored recreation areas are becoming more and more popular throughout the United States, and local industries should be encouraged to promote such areas, with the cooperation of the community. The benefits are mutual to the industry and to the community. Leisure time needs of the workers are met, leadership training is promoted, better workers are attracted, community good will is improved, healthier employees are produced, worker efficiency is improved, and employer-employee relationships are improved. The community benefits in that community spirit and community identification are improved.

Planning District Number 4

Planning District Number 4 is located southwest of the center of Graham. Present recreation facilities in the district include those of Graham High School and the Graham Civic Center. Existing recreation facilities of the high school, which is located on a 30-acre site,

include two softball fields, a gymnasium, a football practice field, an enclosed park for football, baseball, and softball, and general open play areas. (The facilities of the Graham Civic Center are discussed earlier in this study.) Standards for this planning district indicate a need for a neighborhood playground (4-acre minimum).

The Division of Community Planning recommends that such a neighborhood playground be planned and developed in the eastern section of Planning District Number 4, at the end of Brookgreen Terrace. Since there is immediate need of such a playground, it further recommends that the playground be developed as soon as practicable. Major emphasis at the playground should be on children's play areas, for children of both preschool and school age, but features attractive to adults should also be included. Facilities which should be developed should include: a tot play area, a paved multi-use court, an apparatus play area, an open play area for football, softball, horse-shoes, and badminton, walks, and seats. Landscaping utilizing natural or imported features should be an important part of the playground.

In the near future the Negro high school in Planning District Number 4 is to become an elementary school. At that time, the school grounds should be completely redesigned to meet the needs of elementary school students. Recreational facilities, at present oriented to high school student use, will have to be supplemented with facilities designed for younger children. The physical appearance of the school area should be enhanced with the addition of some plantings around the school and perhaps trees or a hedge that would screen off Highway 70.

Planning District Number 5

Planning District Number 5 is located to the southeast of Graham. At present there are no recreation facilities in the area. Its present population of 329 persons is expected to increase to 1,809 by 1980. Standards for this planning district indicate a need for a neighborhood playground (4-acre minimum) and an industrial recreation area.

The Division of Community Planning recommends that such a neighborhood playground be planned for future development on Harden Street, between Town Branch and the street. Since the present population figure does not justify immediate development and since it is not possible to predict exact population location patterns, so specific site is recommended; any good site in the immediate vicinity should be suitable. The proposed playground should serve all age groups, with primary emphasis on facilities for children of preschool and school age. Such facilities should include: a paved multi-use court, a tot area, an apparatus play area, an open space for informal games, facilities for horseshoe pitching, walks, and benches. Appropriate landscaping should be used in the area.

The Division further recommends that an industrial recreation area be planned for the proposed industrial area to the south of Highway 70, between Gilbreath and Harden Streets (as shown in the Development Plan for Graham. Such an area would be the same type as proposed for Planning District Number 3 and would include the same facilities.

Planning District Number 6

Planning District Number 6 is located to the southwest of Graham, south of Highway 70. The only recreation facility in the district is the Red Shield Lake discussed earlier in this study. Present population of this district is estimated to be 483 persons, with the predicted population for 1980 expected to be 1,871. Standards for this planning district indicate a need for a neighborhood playground (4-acre minimum) and a neighborhood park.

The Division of Community Planning recommends that such a neighborhood playground be planned for a generalized location on Handford Road between Webster and Holt Roads. The specific location of such a facility is not stated because any good site within the vicinity would be suitable. The facility, which should be planned for future development, should place primary emphasis on activities of children of preschool age, teenagers, and adults. The new South Graham Elementary School, which is located reasonably nearby, should provide needed recreation facilities for many of the children of elementary school age. Facilities to be developed at this playground should include: a tot play area, a paved multi-use court, a paved tennis court, an apparatus play area, an open play area, and a wading pool. Appropriate landscaping should be used to make the area attractive to passive recreationists.

It is further recommended that a neighborhood park be planned on the western shore of the Red Shield Lake, between the lake and Handford Road. The park should provide further passive recreation areas, featuring picnic grounds, walks, benches and limited off-street parking.

Planning District Number 7

Planning District Number 7 is located to the extreme south of Highway 70. Present recreation facilities are nonexistent, with the new South Graham Elementary School providing the only potential facilities. Present population of the area is estimated at 476 persons, with expansion by 1980 expected to reach 1,480. Recreation standards for this district indicate a need for the standard 4-acre minimum neighborhood playground and a neighborhood park.

The Division of Community Planning recommends that the major part of the land around the new South Graham Elementary School be developed for recreation use, with the school playground designed so that it is a functional part of the school but also a neighborhood playground when the school is closed for the summer months. Facilities that could be centered around the school for year-round use should include: a paved multi-use court, a basketball court, an apparatus area, a softball field, open play areas, an area for quiet games, volleyball courts, and similar areas.

It is further recommended that a 4-acre minimum playground be planned near Nick's Street in the southern part of the planning district, the location being left general because the Division feels that any good site within the vicinity would be suitable. While this facility should be planned for future development, plans should provide that it be designed primarily for children of the preschool group but that it should be large enough to include areas for passive adult recreation and for picnicking. Facilities should include: a paved multi-use court, an apparatus play area, a tot play area, walks, and benches. Here again, landscaping should be a prominent feature.

It is recommended that at a later date, when access to the area becomes more readily available, a neighborhood park be planned to be located north of the new South Graham Elementary School, somewhere along County Home Branch. This park could have as its central feature an arboretum and should be designed to provide passive recreation and relaxation for the whole neighborhood, both children and adults. The park would allow students and adults alike ample opportunity to study different types of trees, flowers, and shrubs that are native to the Graham area. It would make an ideal project for a local garden club and for local nurseries, which could help supply plants and shrubs. With the combined efforts of civic clubs and local commercial interests, the arboretum-park would surely become a success and become a landmark which should attract tourists, much as the Coker Arboretum in Chapel Hill and the Sarah Duke Gardens in Durham have done.

Planning District Number 8

Planning District Number 8 is located to the extreme northeast of Graham. At present, it has no existing recreation facilities. According to the "Development Plan for Graham," future growth in this district will be devoted primarily to Negro residential development because of the fact that the new Negro county high school will be located on a 40-acre tract within the district. A portion of this 40-acre tract should be developed into a community recreation area for the Negro population of Graham. There is certainly enough land for such a recreation facility to be developed in conjunction with the needs of school and yet serve as a separate recreation facility. If the development of the high school property should take place and if the elementary school playground should be utilized more thoroughly than at the present, the Negro population of Graham would be provided with recreation facilities which should be more than adequate for present or future needs.

Facilities which should be included in this recreation area should be: open areas for baseball, football, and softball, tennis courts, volleyball courts, an apparatus area, a tot play area, a picnic area, and a recreation building.

CHAPTER V
COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES

The preceding chapter on recreation needs by planning districts placed emphasis on those recreation facilities needed within individual residential neighborhoods. In addition to the needs of particular neighborhoods, there are, however, other specialized recreation requirements which must be met. This chapter will consider the latter category.

Community Recreation Area

Since the projected population of the total Graham Planning Area in 1980 will approach the 20,000 figure, there is an obvious need to begin now the planning of a Community Recreation Area. According to the recreation standards on which this study is based, such a community recreation area should provide recreation facilities for the entire community and should comprise 20 to 40 acres. A master plan of the proposed Community Recreation Center is shown on the following page. The area is located close to Graham High School and to the Graham Civic Center.

At present the high school is using only about one-half of its thirty-acre site, the other half being devoted to wooded land. Although it is not indicated on the plan, the area to the rear of the high school building (shown as a parking lot) and the area in front of the high school building should be utilized for future expansion of the physical plant of Graham High School.

The master plan of the Community Recreation Area indicates the relationship between the recreation areas, the high school, and the Civic Center, as well as the various elements within the total development. The plan indicates also the locations of the different areas and shows some of the things that should be included in these areas. For example, the tot play area, with adequate parking facilities, is shown in the southwest corner of the area. It should include many facilities for play by children of preschool age and play apparatus for older children. The apparatus play area should be separated from the area for children of preschool age by some landscape feature so that there is no danger for the younger children. Various possibilities for equipment for this area are discussed in the chapter on "General Considerations."

The southern section of the site is indicated on the master plan as a picnic area, which should include shelters and numerous fireplaces or grills. Wherever and whenever possible, the existing trees in the south and southwest part of the site should be preserved. Even in parking areas, existing trees should be left. This wooded area could be utilized for the tot play area, with two or three open areas to permit play in the sun. The area immediately south of the Civic Center is shown as developed for adult recreation and should provide for shuffleboard, checkers, and horseshoes. Areas for games that require a hard surface should be located to the west of the Center.

COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA

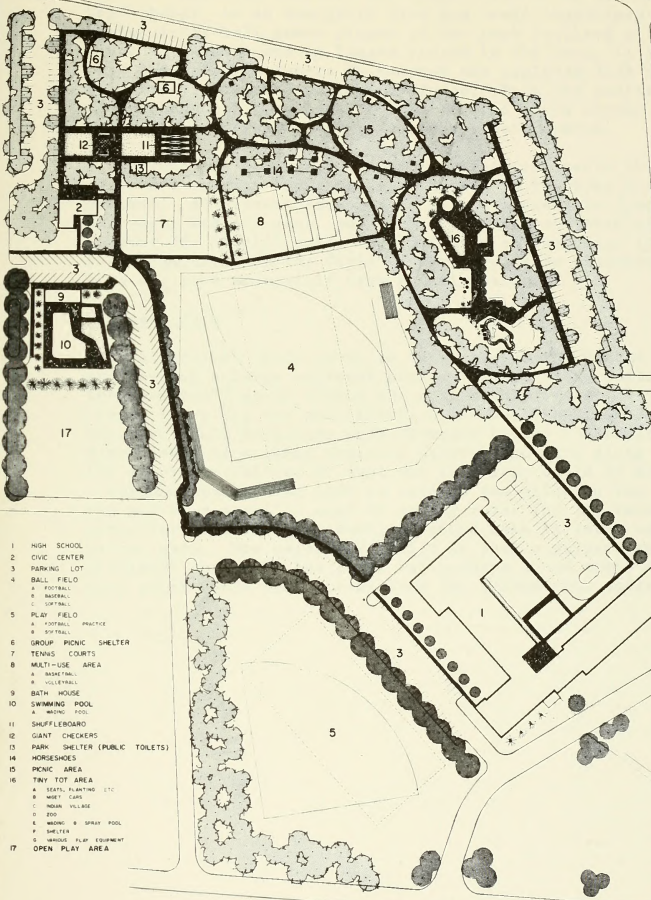
GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA



SCALE 1 IN. = 50 FT.
0 50 100 150

PREPARED FOR
GRAHAM
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The preparation of this map was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Act No. 10 of the Public Law of 1954, as amended.



- 1 HIGH SCHOOL
- 2 CIVIC CENTER
- 3 PARKING LOT
- 4 BALL FIELD
A. FOOTBALL
B. BASEBALL
C. SOFTBALL
- 5 FIELD FIELD
A. FOOTBALL PRACTICE
B. SOFTBALL
- 6 GROUP PICNIC SHELTER
- 7 TENNIS COURTS
- 8 MULTI-USE AREA
A. BASKETBALL
B. VOLLEYBALL
- 9 BATH HOUSE
- 10 SWIMMING POOL
A. WADING POOL
- 11 SHUFFLEBOARD
- 12 GIANT CHECKERS
- 13 PARK SHELTER (PUBLIC TOILETS)
- 14 HORSESHOES
- 15 PICNIC AREA
- 16 TINY TOT AREA
A. SEATS, PLAYING ETC.
B. WREST CARS
C. HOODS, VOLLEY
D. ZOO
E. WADING & SPRAY POOL
F. SHELTER
G. WOODS PLAY EQUIPMENT
- 17 OPEN PLAY AREA

The swimming pool is indicated as being located on city-owned land to the north of the Civic Center; the surrounding area should include a bathhouse, a wading pool, and grass areas for lounging and sunbathing.

The existing enclosed ball park, located to the southeast of the high school, is an unsightly area and needs improvement. In the past, professional ball games played in the park required a fenced park; since such games are no longer played in the area, it is recommended that the existing fences be removed and replaced with a fence of an open type, perhaps a chain link fence. With the addition of trees and perhaps new bleachers, the whole area could become a visual as well as a practical asset to the whole development.

Since the Community Recreation Area will serve the entire Town of Graham and its environs, easy access to the area becomes very important. At present the area is easily accessible from the north, the west, and the east, but access from the southern side (south of Highway 70) is difficult. As indicated on the plan, the extension of the street adjacent to the Civic Center through to Gilbreath Road would make the area accessible from all directions.

Regional Park

At present there seems to be no reason why Graham should plan and develop a large regional park, although it is quite possible that the need could arise within the next twenty years. If this need arises, there are two possibilities for the Graham area. One is that the town could cooperate with Alamance County and Burlington in the development of a large regional parkway and park along the Haw River. The other possibility is that the city lake could be developed into a regional park. The lake is located two miles to the east of Graham and at present is used to supply water for the town. Present plans for expanding the facility could make it large enough for a regional park. One major difficulty in such a project would be the difficult access to the lake, but perhaps a new route could be developed which would make access from the Graham area easier.

CHAPTER VI

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report has concerned itself primarily with determining the number, size, and location of recreation facilities which Graham will need in 1980. The existence of a Master Plan of Recreation does not mean that all planning is finished for the next twenty years, for the Recreation Commission now has the task of acquiring sites and developing them as Graham grows and facilities are needed. There are many things which the Recreation Commission should consider in implementing this Recreation Plan.

Site Acquisition

The Division of Community Planning recommends that immediate steps be taken to start negotiations for acquiring the sites shown on the Master Plan for Recreation. Sites shown as reflecting immediate needs should be acquired first; however negotiations for acquiring sites for future needs should be undertaken as soon as possible.

At the present time the only method that Graham has for acquiring recreation sites is through the donation of lands to the town. Because of this fact, other methods need to be explored. It is recommended that the Recreation Commission and the Town Board adopt a clear cut policy regarding the purchase of recreation sites by the town. It is also recommended that at a later date, when legislation in North Carolina is provided to include recreation site acquisition under subdivision regulations, the Subdivision Regulations for the Town of Graham be revised to include methods of reservation and dedication.

Design

Although the major purpose of this study is to provide the Town of Graham with recommendations for a comprehensive system of recreation facilities, the individual facilities as shown on the Master Recreation Plan merit careful consideration as to their detailed design and development. If an area is to realize its maximum effectiveness insofar as function and visual appeal are concerned, it needs to be planned carefully. The use of a master plan will help assure the orderly development of each facility, even though limited funds may prevent the completion of all features at the same time. If such a plan is not available, development could be a haphazard proposition.

Public recreation areas need to be not only well planned but also pleasing to the eye. Even when they are solving purely practical problems of arrangement, circulation, and construction, designers should still achieve beauty. The fusion of beauty and workability can be achieved only by the application of design skill to the development of sites and facilities alike. No standard design can be applied to all recreation sites and situations: each presents

new requirements and problems, and only a person professionally trained in the field of recreation and land planning is qualified to design an individual recreation site. For these reasons the Graham Recreation Commission should employ the talents of professional park planners, landscape architects, and other specialists in recreation design to implement these plans.

The following objectives should be considered in the design of all recreation areas: functional and effective use of the entire site; utilization of natural or unusual site features; adequate space for each facility to be offered: convenient and safe access; internal circulation; off-street parking; economy in construction and maintenance; and a pleasing physical appearance.

The Division of Community Planning recommends that a detailed design plan be drawn for each recreation area as it approaches the development stage. As the Town of Graham grows, a more detailed design plan should be made for the community recreation area as designated in this report. The plan developed in this report is of necessity rather general; more planning is needed if the town is to utilize completely all areas of the plan. Detailed plans will also be needed for the various features essential to the development of the different facilities, such as buildings, drainage, grading, planting, lighting, pools, walks, benches, and the like. Compare to the investment in land and to the development of recreation facilities, the cost of a master plan or detailed plans is negligible. They should be among the first things considered as each new site is acquired.

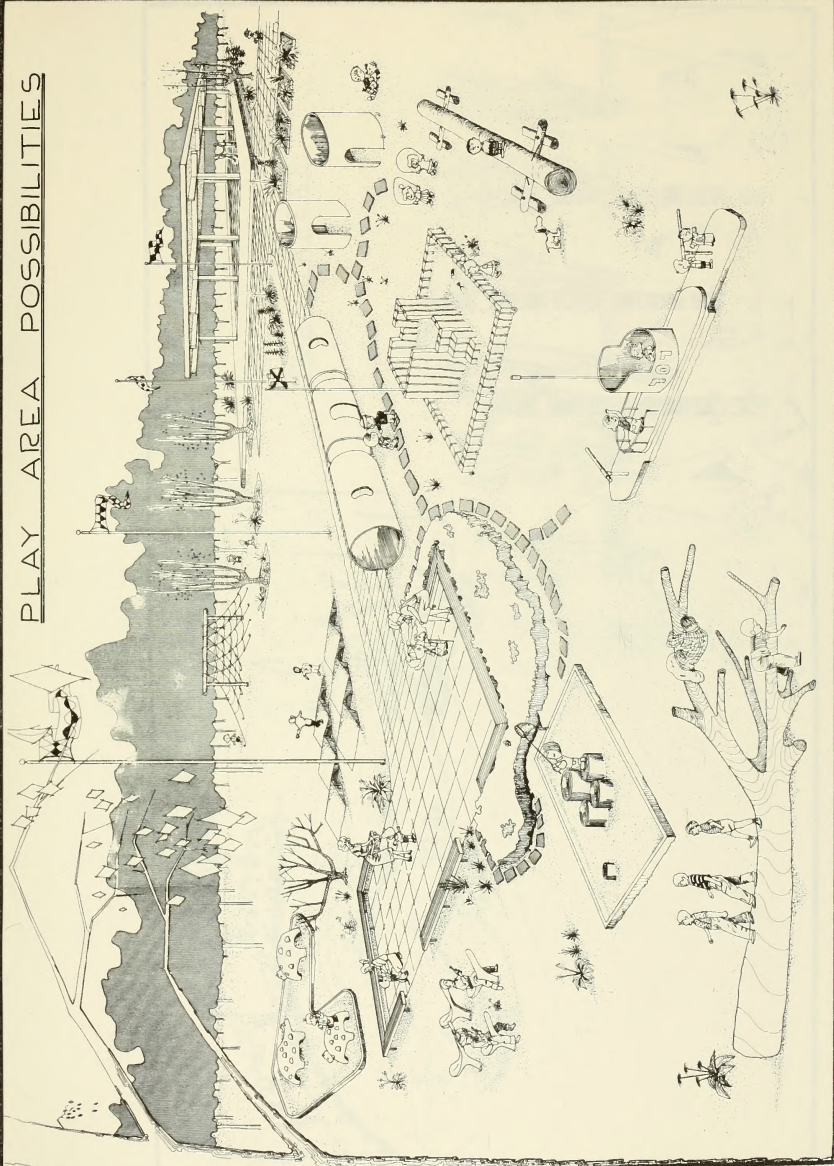
Playground Equipment

Playground equipment to be installed at the various recreation facilities should be selected with utmost care and attention to the functions that it is to perform. The swings, slides, seesaws, jungles gym, horizontal bars that are standard equipment for play areas provide outlets for all the extra energy that children seem to accumulate. In addition to furnishing activity for the children, such equipment provides means of climbing, swinging, sliding, and balancing, which help them to develop coordination and maintain physical fitness.

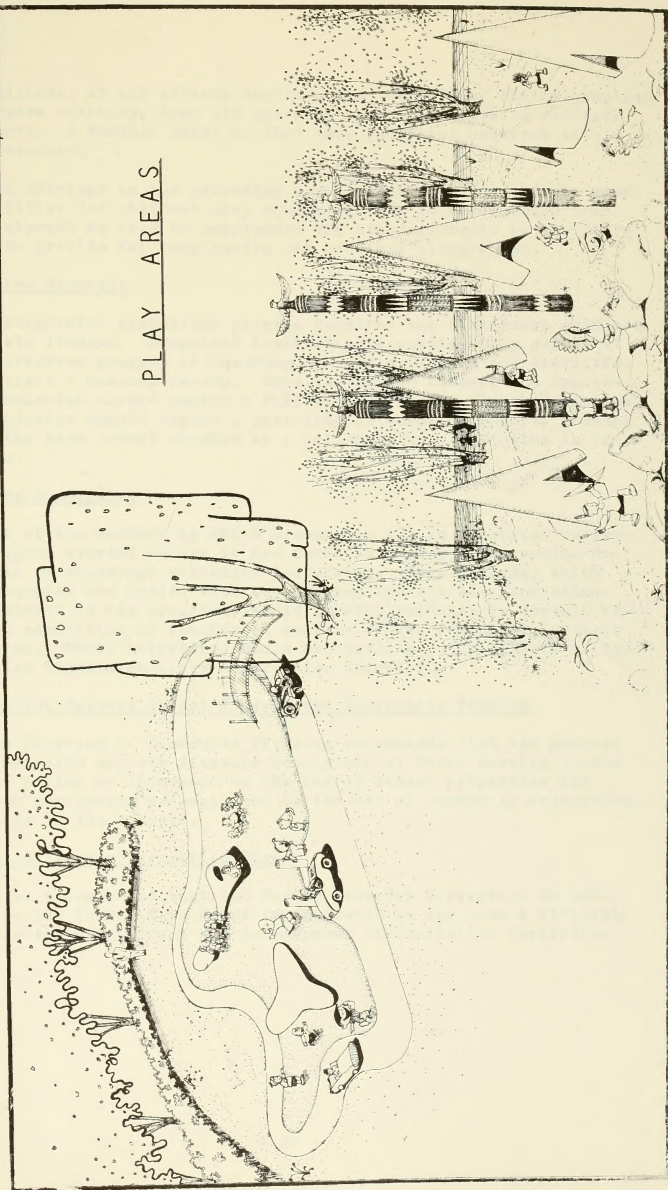
Many of the standard types of playground equipment would become more interesting and more pleasing to the eye if a little imagination were used in their design and construction. For example, a sand box does not have to be just a square box filled with sand. A boat-shaped sand box or a multi-level fortress sand pit is surely more attractive and promotes more imaginative play than the standard box.

Many of the games that children enjoy, such as hide-and-seek, cops and robbers, and exploring, can not be related to any standard equipment. For this reason, new "play sculpture" with abstract forms and colors have been developed to stimulate the imaginations of the youngsters who use them. They add adventure and excitement to the child's world of fantasy. Ideas for this type of play equipment

PLAY AREA POSSIBILITIES



PLAY AREAS



are limitless; it can include anything that stimulates the imagination or promotes activity, from old automobiles or airplanes to concrete sculptures. A further asset is that such equipment requires little or no maintenance.

The drawings on the preceding pages illustrate some of the many possibilities for abstract play equipment. It is recommended that such equipment be used to supplement the standard types in the playground to provide for imaginative and exciting playgrounds.

Recreation Director

A successful recreation program requires the continuous guidance of capable leaders. Competent leadership is particularly essential to a recreation program if the moneys invested in land and facilities are to yield a maximum return. Sometime in the future, the Recreation Commission should employ a full-time director. In the meantime, the Commission should employ a part-time or summer director, perhaps one of the high school coaches or a college student majoring in recreation.

Volunteer Leadership

One of the methods by which Graham can get an organized recreation program started before it has funds to employ a recreation director is to encourage volunteer leadership. This program, which would acquaint the public with the program and its aims and stimulate interest in its progress, would involve guidance in certain recreation activities by interested members of the community in their spare time. Their activities could be coordinated by members of the Recreation Commission or by a part-time director.

Coordination Between School Program and Recreation Program

The Division of Community Planning recommends that the Recreation Commission and the Alamance County School Board develop a more definite policy or agreement on the use of school properties for community recreation purposes and on the use of community recreation properties by the schools.

Approval of Master Recreation Plan

It is recommended that the Master Plan for Recreation be submitted to the Graham Town Board for approval as the town's official guide for the acquisition and development of recreation facilities.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

Butler, George D. Recreation Areas. New York: the Ronald Press, 1958.

National Recreation Association, Standards for Municipal Recreation Areas. New York:, 1956.

Division of Community Planning, North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. Development Plan for Graham, North Carolina, Raleigh: 1959.

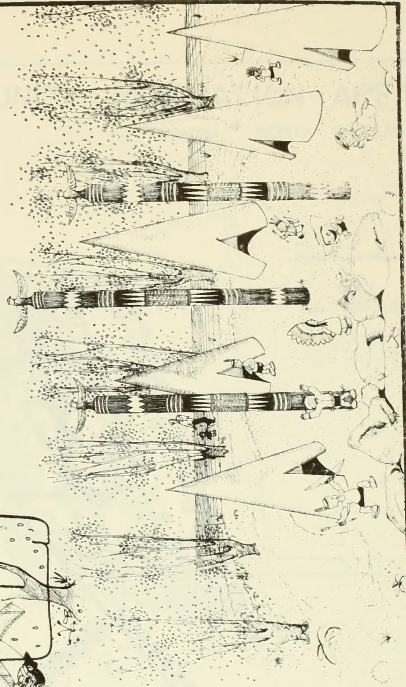
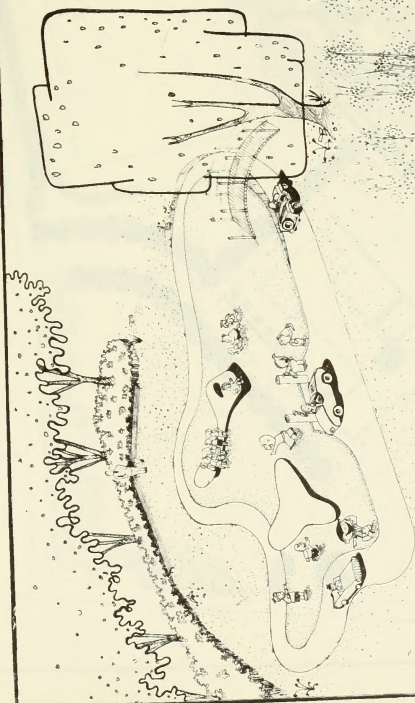
Ledermann, Alfred, and Traschel, Alfred, Creative Playgrounds and Recreation Centers. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1959.

National Industrial Recreation Association, Standard Sports Areas. Chicago: 1956.

National Recreation Association, Standards - playground, playfields, recreation buildings, indoor recreation facilities.

William, Wayne R.,Recreation Places, New York: Reinhold, 1958.

PLAY AREAS



COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA

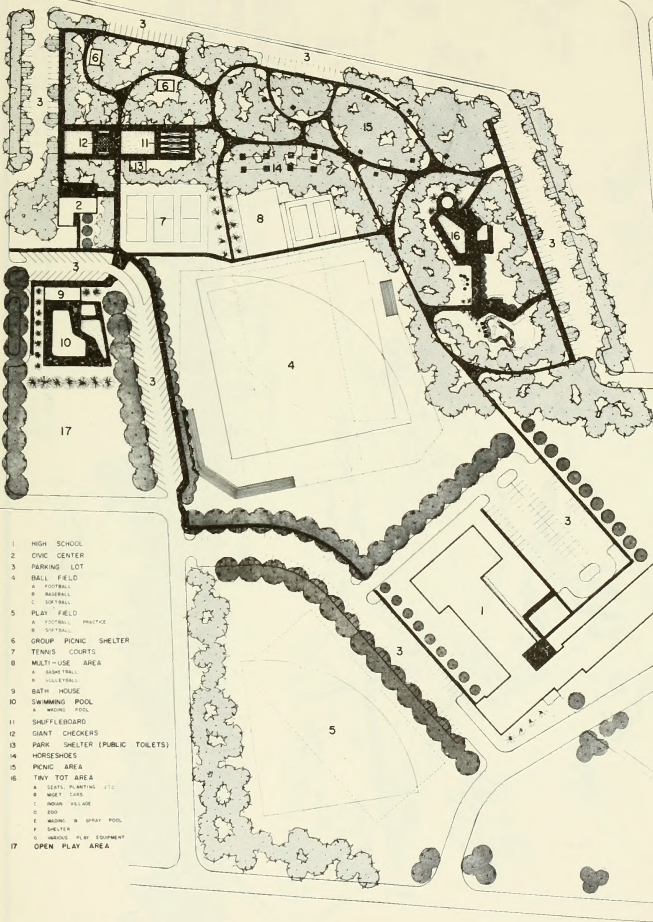
GRAHAM, NORTH CAROLINA



SCALE 1" = 50 FT
0 50 100

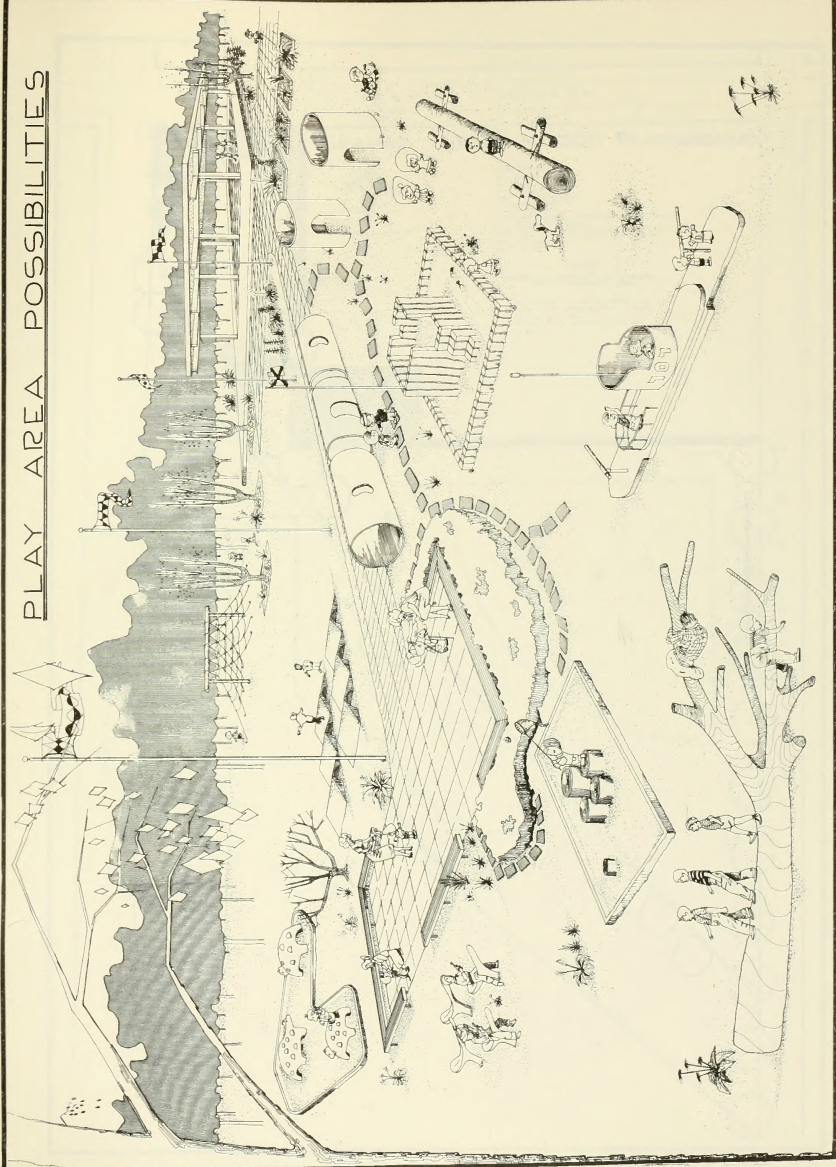
PREPARED FOR
GRAHAM
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The suggestion of this map was furnished in part through an action planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



- 1 HIGH SCHOOL
- 2 CIVIC CENTER
- 3 PARKING LOT
- 4 BALL FIELD
 - A FOOTBALL
 - B BASEBALL
 - C SOFTBALL
- 5 PLAY FIELD
 - A FOOTBALL PRACTICE
 - B SOFTBALL
- 6 GROUP PICNIC SHELTER
- 7 TENNIS COURTS
- 8 MULTI-USE AREA
 - A BASKETBALL
 - B VOLLEYBALL
- 9 BATH HOUSE
- 10 SWIMMING POOL
 - A HEATING POOL
- 11 SHUFFLEBOARD
- 12 GIANT CHECKERS
- 13 PARK SHELTER (PUBLIC TOILETS)
- 14 HORSESHOES
- 15 PICNIC AREA
- 16 TIVOLI AREA
 - A SEATS, PLANTING, ETC.
 - B HOST CASE
 - C INDIAN VILLAGE
 - D ZOO
 - E WADING & SPRAY POOL
 - F SHELTER
- 17 OPEN PLAY AREA

PLAY AREA POSSIBILITIES



TRAVORA STREET

GRAHAM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND

LEGEND

- 1 - SPRAY POOL
- 2 - SHADED
- 3 - SHADE
- 4 - PLANTING AREA
- 5 - BASKETBALL
- 6 - VOLLEYBALL
- 7 - VORTEX W/ SHARED EQUIPMENT & HARD SURFACE
- 8 - OPEN PLAY AREA
- 9 - SOFTBALL, LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
- 10 - TOWN TOT-GENERAL PLAY AREA
- 11 - PRINCE
- 12 - WOODS



SCALE - 1" = 20' 0"

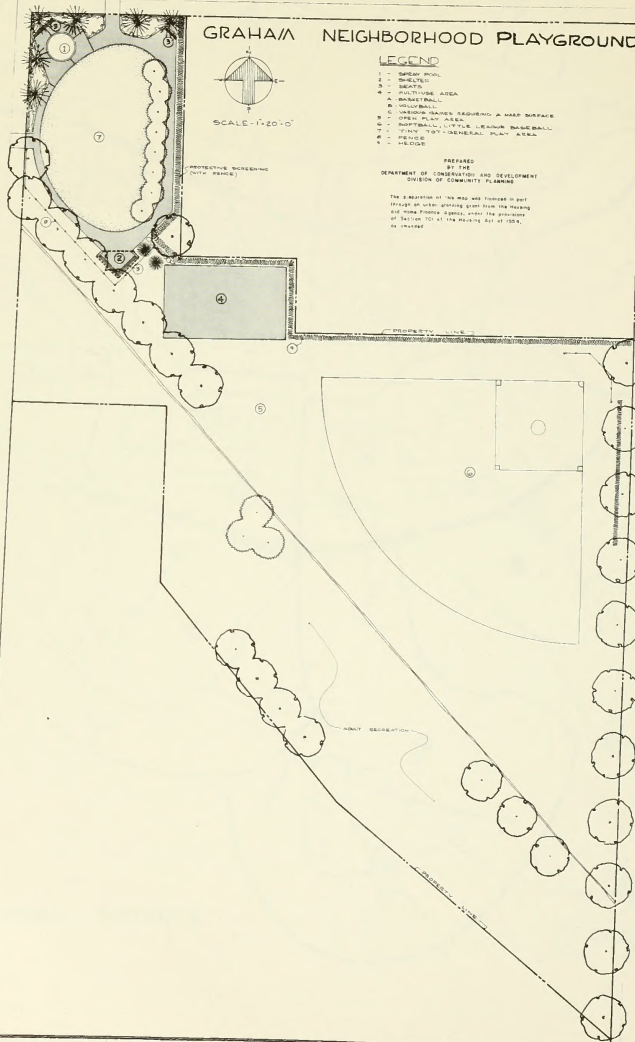
PREPARED

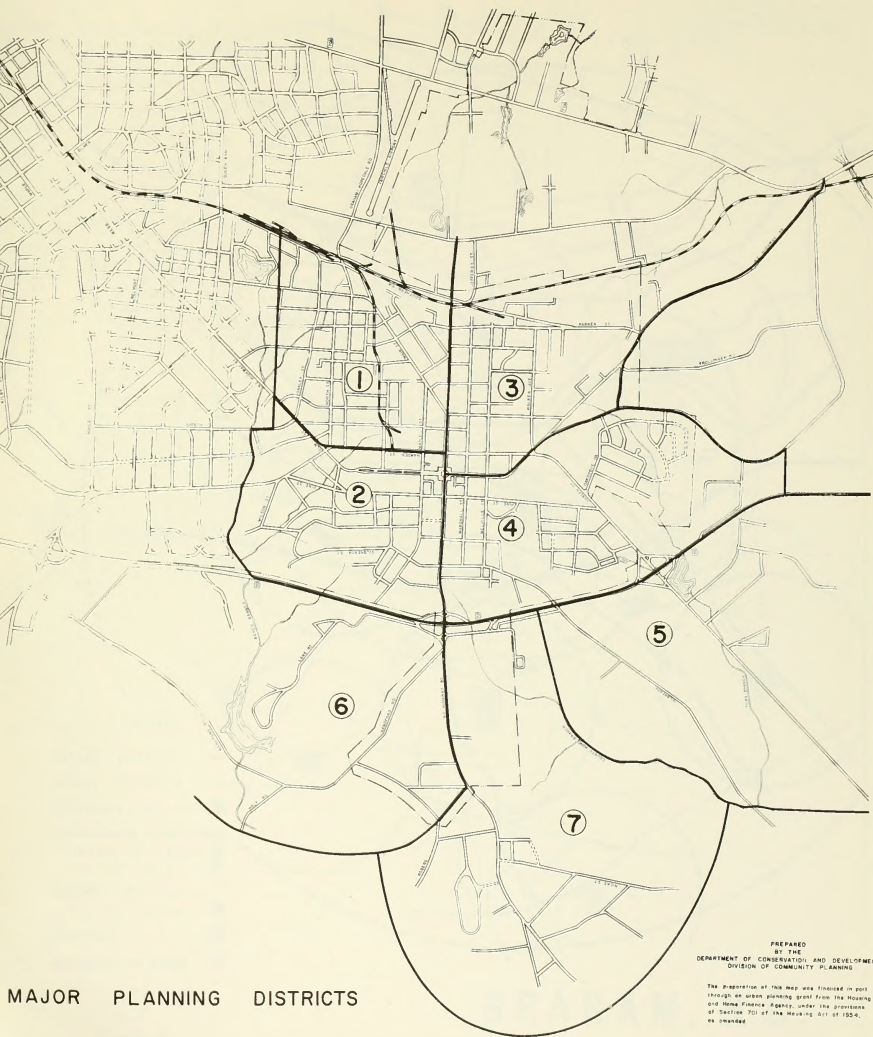
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The preparation of this map and findings is not
warranted or intended to be a representation of the
Department of Conservation and Development, or the
Division of Community Planning, or the City of Seattle,
or the State of Washington.

MARSHALL STREET

MELVILLE STREET



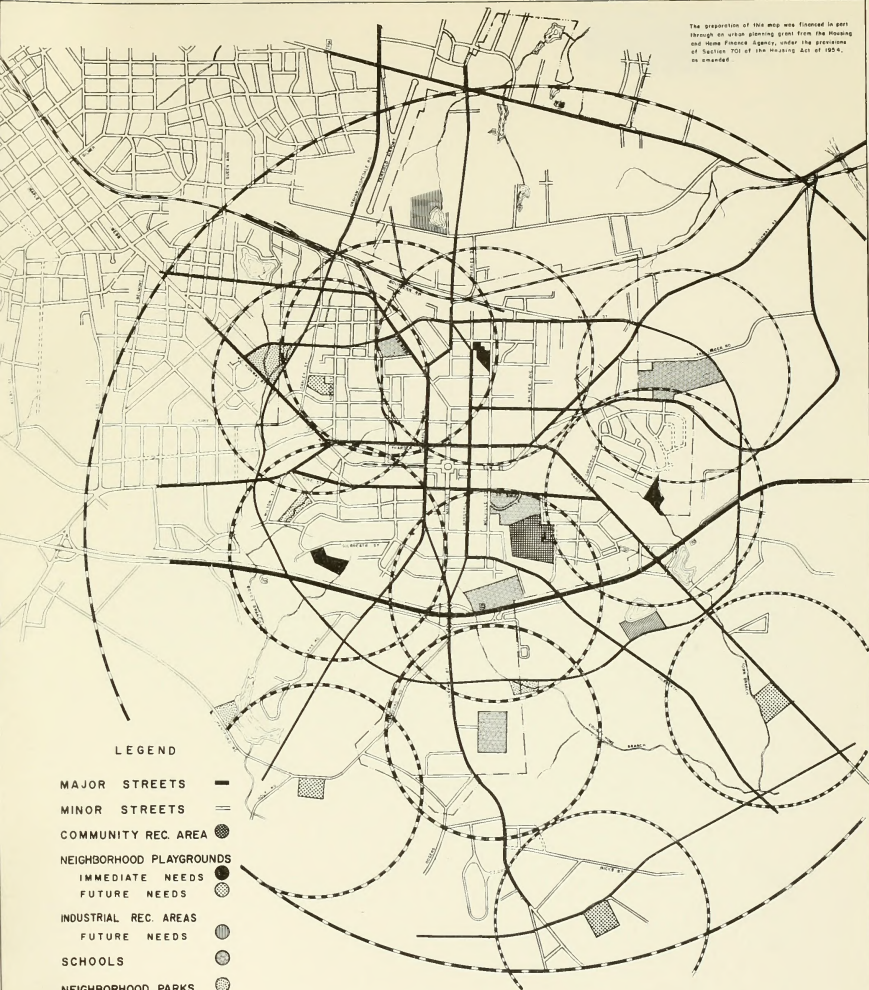


MAJOR PLANNING DISTRICTS

PREPARED
BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

The preparation of this map was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954. We intended

The preparation of this map was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Section 702 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



PREPARED FOR
GRAHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
BY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

GRAHAM, N.C.

MASTER RECREATION PLAN

STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA



3 3091 00747 6450

